Cancellation of AI flights to USA

2889. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India had to cancel its flights to United States of America because of the developments in that country by terrorist attacks on various establishments; and

(b) if so, the number of flights cancelled, for how many days and the loss suffered by the Airlines on this account?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Air India had cancelled 22 single flights and suffered loss of Rs. 8.50 crores on this account during the period of four days when the US airspace was closed after the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001.

Commercial utilization of vacant land at Airports

2890. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the large area of vacant land remain unutilized at various airports;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made about the vacant land and its proper use for commercial exploitation so as to earn some revenue out of it; and

(c) if so, the details of the vacant land adjoining various airports and the schemes finalised, if any, for the better and commercial utilization of this land?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A lot of vacant land is available at the airports, a larger part of which is required to be kept vacant to meet essential operational safety norms. Assessment of vacant land which can be utilized for commercial exploitation has been made for a number of airports which are as under:-

Mumbai — 1,91,123 sq.m; Juhu — 24,000 sq.m; IGI Airport — 4,97,760 sq.m; Kolkata — 14, 000 sq.m; Chennai — 48,000 sq.m;

Ahmedabad — 16,500 sq.m; Lucknow — 14,000 sq.m; Vadodara — 88,656 sq.m.; Jaipur, Nagpur, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Guwahati, Bhopal, Trivandrum and Vijayawada — 2,000 sq.m each; and Andheri Communication Station — 20,000 sq.m.

There are plans to suitably take up construction of hangars, cargo warehouses, retail petrol outlets, hotels, resorts, shopping plaza, etc. for commercial utilization of the vacant land.

Rules to Monitor Aircraft Movement

2891. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindu, Delhi dated the 11th September, 2001, captioned "Official writes to IAF on mid-air occurrence";

(b) if so, the details of mid-air violations of flight level coordination occurred in early hours of the 18th August, 2001; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for establishing clear-cut set of rules to monitor aircraft movement over the restricted defence air zones, where commercial planes are allowed to fly?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There was no mid-air violation as the reported traffic was at 2000 ft. below the jet Airways flight while the required separation at this level is 1000 ft.

(c) In view of the above, no fresh steps have been taken in this matter. As per existing system Air defence identification zone, Restricted and Prohibited areas have been established in the Indian Airspace to control and monitor flying of commercial planes over such areas. Also, the Military liaison unit has been established in the four major international airports *i.e.* Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai to monitor the flying over Indian Airspace. Civil Defence co-ordination procedure exists to control and regulate the air traffic.